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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 H-01 ARA-16 SY-05 HA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5244

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 6309

E. O. 12065: GDS 8/21/87 (THOMSON, STEPHEN J.) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, PINT SHUM, ES
SUBJ: DISAPPEARANCE OF ANTONIO HUSMAN

REF: A) SENATOR WARNER'S LETTER OF JULY 7, 1981
B) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FAIRBANK'S LETTER OF JULY 17, 1981

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. POLOFF WAS ABLE TO CONTACT FAMILY MEMBERS OF ANTONIO HUSMAN AND INTERVIEWED THE SUBJECT'S SISTER, SONIA AMERICA HUSMAN, ON AUGUST 19. THIS INFORMATION CONFIRMED AND AMPLIFIED MR. RICARDO HUSMAN'S ACCOUNT OF HIS BROTHER'S DISAPPEARANCE GIVEN IN HIS JULY 6 LETTER TO SENATOR WARNER; IT ALSO ADDED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF MEASURES THE HUSMAN FAMILY TOOK HERE TO OBTAIN ANTONIO'S RELEASE. OUR RESPONSE TO SENATOR WARNER SHOULD MAKE THESE AND THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

3. ON FRIDAY APRIL 24 THE SUBJECT, ANTONIO HUSMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY THREE FRIENDS, WAS PROCEEDING IN HUSMAN'S CAR FROM SAN SALVADOR TO THE PORT CITY OF ACAJUTLA IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. HUSMAN'S PASSENGERS WERE:

4. SONIA HUSMAN RECALLED THAT ON APRIL 26, TWO DAYS AFTER THE CAPTURE OF HER BROTHER, SHE AND A SECOND BROTHER TRAVELED TO JUAYUA TO INQUIRE ABOUT ANTONIO. AT THE LOCAL CIVIL MILITIA COMMAND POST THEY MET LOPEZ, THE COMMANDER, WHO TOLD THEM THAT NEITHER HUSMAN NOR ANY OF HIS FRIENDS HAD BEEN CAPTURED. RECEIVING NO SATISFACTION IN JUAYUA, THEY TRAVELED TO SONSONATE, THE DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL ABOUT 13 KILOMETERS AWAY, TO SEEK INFORMATION AT THE ARMY POST THERE. AN UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER TOLD THEM THAT THE THREE MEN HAD NOT BEEN CAPTURED.

5. ABOUT FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE CAPTURE, A FRIEND OF THE HUSMAN FAMILY TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY A RETIRED MILITARY ACQUAINTANCE THAT A FRIEND OF THE ACQUAINTANCE HAD SEEN THE NAMES OF THE THREE CAPTURED MEN IN A LOG OF THE SONSONATE GARRISON. WITH THIS INFORMATION THE FAMILY VISITED VARIOUS HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE RED CROSS AND THE ARCHDIOCESAN LEGAL AID OFFICE, TO NO AVAIL. SONIA HUSMAN ALSO RELATED HOW THE [redacted] FAMILY COULD OBTAIN NEITHER INFORMATION NOR ACTION FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE REGARDING THEIR SON.

6. MEMBERS OF THE HUSMAN FAMILY PAID A SECOND VISIT TO THE ARMY GARRISON IN SONSONATE ON JUNE 26. THEY WERE AGAIN TOLD THAT ANTONIO HUSMAN HAD NOT BEEN CAPTURED AND WAS NOT BEING HELD. HOWEVER THE FAMILY WAS TOLD THAT THE ARMY POSSESSED INFORMATION THAT HUSMAN AND HIS FRIENDS WERE INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTS, INCLUDING THE SMUGGLING OF ARMS FROM GUATEMALA IN HUSMAN'S CAR. SINCE THAT DAY THE FAMILY'S INQUIRIES HAVE HAD NO RESULT.

7. THE PRECEDING IS ALL THE INFORMATION WHICH WE WERE ABLE TO DEVELOP IN THIS CASE. WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT AN APPROACH TO THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE FATE OF ANTONIO HUSMAN WOULD HAVE ANY MORE SUCCESS THAN THAT OBTAINED BY THE FAMILY OR SALVADORAN AID SOCIETIES. SHOULD ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING MISTER HUSMAN COME TO LIGHT, POST WILL IMMEDIATELY INFORM THE DEPARTMENT. HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HD DATE 8 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED